

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. Claims 16-24 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, the specification has been amended to include appropriate section headings, and the drawings have been amended to cure asserted minor informalities. No claim has been amended.

Applicants are filing a Notice of Appeal concurrently herewith. Applicants submit that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 places this application in better form for appeal by reducing the number of issues before the Board. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter this Amendment for purposes of appeal and indicate in the next communication to Applicants that the objections to the specification and drawings have been obviated.

In the final Office Action, the disclosure was objected to due to an asserted minor informality (i.e., no section headings). In response, although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's assertion (i.e., because neither the M.P.E.P. nor any other source indicates that headings in the specification are always required), Applicants have amended the specification to include appropriate headings, as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of objection to the disclosure.

The drawings were also objected. The final Office Action required revisions to Figs. 2B and 2C to more clearly indicate that the reference character "6" designates a decorative pattern. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with this assertion, Applicants have amended Figs. 2B and 2C to more clearly indicate that the reference character "6" designates a decorative pattern. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection to the drawings.

The final Office Action also required formal drawings for Figs. 6A and 6B.

Applicants submit herewith formal drawings containing Figs. 1, 2A-C, 6A, 6B, and 3-5.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing this application in better form for appeal. The proposed amendments to the specification and the drawings do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional consideration by the Examiner.

The final Office Action includes claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 103(a), and 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully disagree with those rejections and submit that they should be withdrawn for all of the reasons explained in the Amendment previously filed on March 23, 2004.

The final Office Action contains a number of statements and characterizations regarding the claims and the related art. Applicants decline to subscribe automatically to any statement or characterization in the final Office Action, regardless of whether it is addressed above.

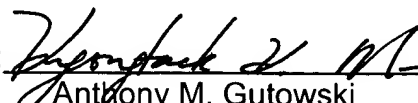

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned (571-203-2774) if a telephone conversation might advance prosecution of the application.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 2, 2004

By:  Reg. No. 50,585
Anthony M. Gutowski
 Reg. No. 38,742

ATTACHMENT

- Five (5) Replacement Sheets of drawings containing Figs. 1, 2A-C, 6A, 6B, and 3-5

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, please replace the informal drawings with the five (5) replacement sheets of drawings submitted herewith.

The replacement sheets of drawings include formal drawings. The formal drawings also include revisions to Figs. 2B and 2C, incorporating the drawing corrections suggested by the Examiner in the June 2, 2004 Office Action.